

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

Key passage: Galatians 5:1-6

1. Read (out loud if you're willing) all of Galatians 5:1-6. What questions do these verses raise for you?
2. Check out Jude 3-4. What balance do those verses give you toward the idea of legalism versus license?
3. Now read Titus 2:11-14. You can see the development in Paul's thought (Titus was written long after Galatians), but also a steady understanding of "eagerness" in life with God. Do you now or have you ever felt that way (expectant) about God's presence in your life?
4. Christian playwright and author Dorothy Sayers said:
"Official Christianity, of late years, has been having what is known as a bad press. We are constantly assured that the churches are empty because preachers insist too much upon doctrine—dull dogma as people call it. The fact is the precise opposite. It is the neglect of dogma that makes for dullness. The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man—and the dogma is the drama...we may call that doctrine exhilarating, or we may call it devastating; we may call it revelation, or we may call it rubbish; but if we call it dull, then words have not meaning at all."
Dorothy Sayers, *The Greatest Drama Ever Staged*
 - a) "Dogma" or "doctrine" is just another word for "teaching." Looking back at Galatians 5:5, what do you see that is exciting, even dramatic, about the faith we have?
 - b) In Galatians 5:6, Paul makes a grand summary statement about what really matters. In your own words, what is he saying? What does that sentence say to you personally?
5. Back to Galatians 5:1; does your Christian life feel freeing or slaveish? Is it thrilling or dull?
6. If you can share with your Community Group what you wrote on the back of your card on Sunday. If you are following the blog and Scripture reading this week, share how it has been so far. What have you learned, experienced, etc.?



Grace & Freedom Christians

Grace, part 3

Key passage: Galatians 5:1-6

April 25, 2010

Galatians 5:1-4

¹*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

²*Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*

Summary: If you are trying to earn God's favor by being a good person, you are committing yourself to

_____.

Galatians 5:5-6

⁵*But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

1. If you want evidence here and now of your future hope, it's in your _____.

2. What makes everything else work in the Christian's life is

_____.